

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 14-15 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 8-13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The right to file a continuing application directed to the canceled claims is reserved.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete "and, for example, rolling heat" and "and optionally planishing is carried out" and new claims 14 and 15 have been added directed to these features. Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to recite positive process steps.

Claims 2-7 have been amended to replace "further characterized in that" with "wherein". The amendments are directed to form only.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-7 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection.

I. Rejection of Claims 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 10-324952.

Without acquiescing the merits of the rejection, claims 8-13 have been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is moot and withdrawal is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite.

With respect to claim 1, as noted above, the claim has been amended to delete "and, for example, rolling heat" and "and optionally planishing is carried out". Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to recite positive steps.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection has been overcome, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

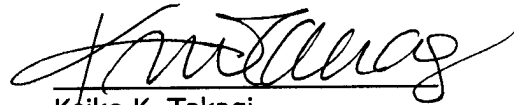
III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-7 and 14-15 is respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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